

The Old Stage Coach Stop, c. 1857, see story page 2.

Preservation Grant Funds Available

Thanks to additional money from the State Historic Preservation Office, limited funds are still available to owners of local Register properties for exterior maintenance or repair. Pick up an application at the City Development Office on Council Street.



Free Rehab Workshop

The celebration of National Preservation Week (May 11-18) will be observed in Forest Grove with the "Rehab Oregon Right" preservation workshop. Events are scheduled Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 16-18.

"Rehab Oregon Right" is a preservation program aimed at individual property owners that teaches the "do's and don'ts" of exterior rehabilitation and historic landmark preservation. The Saturday workshop is presented by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (HPLO) with guest speakers Mike Byrnes and Al Staehli. The afternoon session includes a time for informal consultation with the experts.

All events are free of charge. "Rehab Oregon Right" workbooks will be available for \$15. See the enclosed flier for more information and a registration form.

Wanted: New HLB Members

As of July 1, there will be vacancies on the Historic Landmarks Board. If you are interested in preserving Forest Grove's historic character and would like to serve on the board, contact Edwin Dey or Janet Lamb.

Visit one of our next meetings to get a taste of what we do – April 22 and May 27 at 7:30 pm in the Rogers Room at the library.

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

Haynes Commended for Service

Gladys Haynes is this year's recipient of the Eric G. Stewart Award for historic preservation. The award will be presented at the City Council meeting on April 28.

A member of the Historic Landmarks Board since its inception, Haynes wrote the following history of preservation in Forest Grove.

For the Sake of Preservation

by Gladys L. Haynes

Before the beginning of the Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board, there was an effort in Oregon to identify and protect land uses. The Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 100 in 1973 which contained some 19 goals including Goal V for identifying and protecting historic landmarks. All counties and cities in Oregon were required to establish a Comprehensive Plan covering all 19 goals. Forest Grove began work about 1978 with volunteer committees surveying specific areas of the City.

Initial Efforts to Meet State Requirements

Dr. Margaret Gilbert, a professor at Pacific University, volunteered to chair the committee on historic buildings. Several others, including myself, also helped. Dr. Gilbert secured information on all houses built before 1900. She interviewed owners, as well as long-time city residents. I volunteered to collect similar information on business buildings in the historic downtown core. We then made our report to the City.

Two sections of the Forest Grove Comprehensive Plan were not approved by LCDC, including the Goal V work. We were supposed to inventory all buildings more than 50 years old. Only some trees had been identified and given the historic landmark overlay; and no buildings had been identified as historic landmarks.

In December, 1980, the City (by resolution) appointed three residents to a historic landmarks board to begin work on meeting all LCDC requirements. The full board was assembled by July 1981. Doris Burlingham, Mary Cowan, Carolyn Buan, Sander Cakebread, Susan

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The Blank House, aka the Old Stage Coach Stop

This venerable building is one of three remaining 1850s houses in Forest Grove. The house is on the National Historic Register as the Stephen and Parthena McMillan Blank House, named after its original owners.

The Blanks married in Illinois in 1850 and were part of the 1852 migration over the Oregon Trail which suffered so much from cholera. Parthena Blank and her twin sister, Cecelia Adams, kept a daily diary of that trek, which is now at the Oregon Historical Society. In addition to the Blanks and Cecelia Adams, her husband, Dr. Charles Adams, and the sisters' parents, Joseph and Ruth McMillan, were also members of the 1852 wagon train. They were met at The Dalles by their brother, Capt. James McMillan, one of the earliest Donation Land Claim residents in Washington County.

Stephen Blank was a carpenter, so probably built his own house. Its style was popular in the east before the 1840s. The architecture is a vernacular example of Greek Revival style. The original section of the house was built by 1857-1858, and under the original wallpaper, 1850s newspapers were pasted over the interior wood sheathing. The exterior features two bay windows, return gables at the eaves, and original small-paned glass. The porch roof is supported by simple square posts.

After inspecting the house, distinguished architecture professor Philip Dole of the University of Oregon commented that its construction techniques are among the most interesting he had ever seen.

The Blanks had no children of their own, but adopted three little girls whose parents died on the Oregon Trail. They were members of the Congregational Church and close friends of the A.T. Smiths and the Elkanah Walkers. They lived until about 1913.

The Blank House is called The Old Stage Coach Stop because it was one when the building stood at the corner of 21st and A. The house was moved about 1893 to its present location at 2117 A Street. The Blanks sold the house to W.H. Crosley in 1892. Crosley owned the half block facing A Street. His son, Jesse Crosley, owned the Old Stage Coach Stop. His brother, Harry Crosley, built the house next door about 1895. The Crosley House is also on the National Historic Register.

The Blank House was bought by William P. Dyke, about 1917 and owned by the Dyke family until the 1950s. The oldest known picture of the house was provided by Mr. Dyke's daughter.

A son of the Rev. Elkanah Walker told subsequent owners, Eric and Gladys Waldorf, about the hitching posts in front of it.

Blank was engaged in many business enterprises, including owning a door and sash factory, and being a founding owner of the Forest Grove Canning Company, and he helped establish the Forest Grove Electric Light Company. Blank was also a mayor of Forest Grove.

The present owners are Bryan and Cindi Berg who are restoring the house.

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Tompkins Larrance, Barbara Wedell, and I were the first members of the board.

Volunteers Survey Historic Properties

Mary Cowan, board chair, said in effect, "I decided to get on the bus and go to Portland. I went to the Historic Preservation League Office (HPLO) to talk with Eric Eisemann and asked him to help us." Mary's initiative worked magic. HPLO needed a demonstration project to learn how to do a historic buildings survey, and Forest Grove was selected for their pilot project.

Early in 1982 we put out a call for volunteers to survey buildings more than 50 years old. Eric Eisemann assembled a staff of experts to guide and instruct us. The noted historic preservation architect, Alfred E. Steahli, was our tour teacher. He showed us what to look for in architectural styles and integrity. I remember his saying, "Look up! Look up!" Everywhere I went I began to look

up at the architectural details which gave clues to a building's style and period.

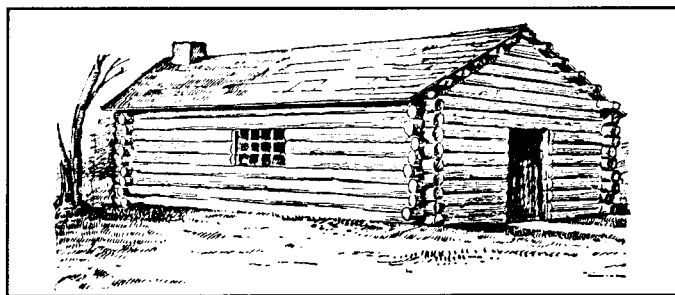
It was supposed to be fun, wonderful, and quick ... *then the rains came!* We slogged our way through town, filling out long survey sheets, including a drawing of each building and its site. I recall sitting on College Way in front of the General Telephone building, drawing its distinguished facade. It was so wet I had to stay in the car. The windows became so fogged, I had to roll down the window. The rain fell on my sheet, but I turned it in anyway.

About ten volunteers surveyed some 350 buildings. Eric Stewart volunteered to photograph all of the buildings surveyed. As we collected the necessary forms, the HLB began evaluating each one.

Researching Historic Significance

Through Dr. Gilbert's previous work, we had full information on about 20 buildings, so we processed them

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Log building site commemorated by the Petrified Stump monument. (Graphic from 1902 Heart of Oak yearbook.)

Stump Monument Set 100 Years Ago

One hundred years ago, in April 1897, a petrified stump was set in place on the campus of Pacific University to mark the site of the 1848 log building which served as a Congregational Church and the first home of the Tualatin Academy. As noted on the bronze plaque, the monument was placed there by the "Class of 1867." The plaque doesn't explain, however, that the class consisted of only three graduates: Dr. David Raffety, Rev. J. Elkanah Walker, and John Bowlby. Early photographs show that it was approximately 12 inches higher than it is today.

The Petrified Stump is located on the lawn north of Carnegie Hall near 21st Avenue and College Way.

Petrified Stump graphic from the 1924 Heart of Oak yearbook.



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Events Calendar

Stewart Award: Monday, April 28

Presentation of the Eric G. Stewart Award for historic preservation at the City Council meeting, 7 pm.

FHFG Annual Meeting: Thursday, May 8

Friends of Historic Forest Grove (FHFG) annual meeting at 7:30 pm in the Rogers Room at the library. Election of officers and slide presentation on "Early Forest Grove Transportation."

Rehab Workshop: Friday - Sunday, May 16-18

Friday, 7 pm: Slide show on the history of Forest Grove and kickoff reception for Rehab Oregon Right in the multipurpose room at Pacific University.

Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm: "Rehab Oregon Right" Workshop in the multipurpose room at Pacific University. No charge for the workshop; deli lunch available for \$6, and workbook available for \$15. See insert for more information and registration form.

Sunday, 2 - 4 pm: Site evaluation; A.T. Smith House.

FHFG Garden Tour: Saturday, June 8

"Porches and Gardens of Old Town" FHFG walking tour. Call Carol Drew for more information, 357-9878.

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rather quickly. Kimberly DeMuth, from Washington County, helped with the information on architectural styles and periods. The Forest Grove staff person assigned to us was Brian Shetterly, who did yeoman's work compiling everything on official City forms.

For additional information we started with Dr. Gilbert's research and property owners' information. Pacific University archives revealed Forest Grove student names. Those surnames appeared on deed records at similar periods. Donation Land Claim owners sent their children to Pacific, and built houses here where they could live. Then they sold those houses to other parents of students.

I also went to the Oregon Historical Society and had their assistance on microfilm and early photographs. Each of us on the board had different responsibilities. We met about twice a month for three years to evaluate the information from the volunteers' reports.

I was the "historian." I began researching deed records and was able to trace many of our oldest build-

ings. It was a long, arduous process. When I had vacation from teaching school, I spent whole days in the Washington County Recorder's office, first using microfilm, then using the original deed books.

I would call a day ahead, and two or three deed books would be brought to the office from storage. Perched on a high stool, I recorded Forest Grove deeds on every page of every book from Book A through Book K (1850 to ca.1875). I looked for Forest Grove deed records and learned to recognize certain names. If they were platted in Forest Grove, recording was easy. Some names, such as Dr. Marsh, Sam Hughes, Isaac Meyer, and Stephen Blank alerted me to other deeds related to Forest Grove. We were able to pair many of our oldest houses with their original owners. Those first owners had been influential in developing Forest Grove, which was an important criterion among the five criteria for historic designation. We were also able to pair many downtown business owners with where they had lived.

Recommending Landmarks

By 1985 the board had evaluated some 350 buildings, and recommended 132 to the Planning Commission and City Council. We had also been given a model historic preservation ordinance and the services of a land use attorney by Eric Eisemann. We modified the model ordinance to apply to Forest Grove which would identify and protect Forest Grove's cultural resources. Then the fire-works began.

In addition to knowing the board was proposing their buildings, some owners were alarmed at "what the City was going to do to them." We organized public meetings to explain the list of proposed buildings and the proposed ordinance to protect the buildings. Many owners and residents of Forest Grove positively wanted protection of historic buildings.

An informal group called "Friends of Historic Forest Grove" assembled for meetings and public hearings to testify.

Members of the HLB attended work sessions with the Planning Commission and City Council during 1985 and 1986. After all the hearings and a lot of explaining of our point system for the criteria, the Council, in its wisdom, established three separate categories, and said only buildings more than 75 years old in Forest Grove would be on the Cultural Inventory. Their work produced a list of 24 buildings to be protected.

This article will be concluded in the next issue.

100 Years Ago

April

Why is it that the boys will persist in bathing in Gales Creek above the water works? A good swimming place can be found below the bridge, and it does seem that there ought to be enough good sense and kindness in the boys to help make a little public sentiment on the subject. One of our citizens says he would not object so strongly if the boys would take off their dirty socks.

May

Mrs. A.T. Smith is painting her home and decorating the interior in fine style. We hope such a spirit will be contagious and that every house owner in town will catch it.

June

A couple of our boys made the trip from Hillsboro to the Grove this week in 24 minutes.

From the Washington County Hatchet-Forest Grove Times.